
NEWS From:

Reps. Pombo & Honda



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Websites of Reps. Pombo and Honda Ranked Best in Congress by Independent Study of Congressional Websites

WASHINGTON, March 3, 2003 — The websites of U.S. Reps. Richard Pombo (www.house.gov/pombo) and Mike Honda (www.house.gov/honda) were ranked as some of the best websites in Congress in a non-partisan, independent study. The Congress Online Project, a joint research project of the Congressional Management Foundation and the George Washington University, funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts awarded Rep. Pombo's website with the "Golden Mouse Award" (A+ grade). Rep. Honda's website was honored with the "Silver Mouse Award" (A grade).

"Rep. Richard Pombo does an outstanding job of building relationships with his audiences online," the Congress Online study stated. "Rich content and interactive features bring visitors back again and again." The study further reported that: "Rep. Mike Honda's Web site stood out in our evaluations for the way it presents its issue information."

"I'm proud my website won the Golden Mouse Award again," said Pombo. "My Congressional webpage can be of tremendous service to those seeking assistance with the federal government and those interested in learning more about the issues facing Congress. I hope more people log on every day."

Rep. Honda commented, "I am pleased that my website has won this award. My website provides a lot of content to my constituents, the media, and others interested in my legislative record. In 2002, my site averaged 150,000 hits per month. My website is an integral tool in my efforts to communicate with my constituents."

The study evaluated 610 websites in Congress -- all Member office, committee and leadership sites -- to determine which sites were the best and to assess how well Congress was using the Internet to communicate with the public. 16 websites won the Golden Mouse (A+), 26 won the Silver Mouse (A), and 33 won the Bronze Mouse (A-). This research is the second annual report to combine a comprehensive analysis and grading of all congressional websites.

The report is designed to both critique current website practices and provide a blueprint for congressional offices that wish to improve their Web sites. The websites were graded from August through November of 2002 using five criteria essential to good congressional websites: audience, content, interactivity, usability, and innovations. The research included multiple reviews of the sites by the project team and an independent panel, interviews with congressional staff, and available studies on best practices in Web sites.

CMF (www.cmfweb.org) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan education organization devoted to promoting a more effective Congress. The George Washington University, through its Graduate School of Political Management (GSPM), is conducting a series of studies on the impact of Internet and electronic communications on American democracy. The Pew Charitable Trusts (www.pewtrusts.com) support nonprofit activities in the areas of culture, education, the environment, health and human services, public policy and religion.

The complete list of the Congress Online Gold, Silver, and Bronze Mouse Award winners is available in the report: www.congressonlineproject.org/webstudy2003.html.